GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3334
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY BY BRITAIN
Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Government has refused to relax the curbs on transfer of nuclear technology to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to U.K. raised the issue with British Prime Minister and requested for a review of the ban; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the British Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a)to(d) : The Government of UK is an active member of the Nuclear Suppliers` Group (NSG). The UK earlier had a policy of denying export licensing applications for items listed in the NSG dual use list to nuclear and nuclear related end users in India, which exceeded the restrictions imposed by NSG. Recently the UK Government has adjusted its policy with regard to nuclear related transfers and scientific contacts with India in line with their NSG commitments. Accordingly while the UK will continue to deny applications in respect of items on the NSG Dual Use list when they are destined for unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear explosive activities, it will now consider on a case-by-case basis license applications for items on the NSG Dual Use list destined for other activities in India.

India and the UK are engaged in a comprehensive dialogue as part of their close and multi-faceted relationship. In September 2004, Prime Ministers of the two countries launched a Joint Declaration `Towards New and Dynamic Partnership` in which they agreed to expand cooperation in the field of civilian nuclear activities in accordance with their international obligations.